(G)

1972

Birds seen Around Ramnad 20 K.M and Kanchirankulam Rameshvaram Island

1. Periakanmai
2. Devipattanam
3. Sethukarai
4. Kavanoor
5. Uttarakosamangai
6. Periapattanam
7. Vaigai Tharavai
8. Thekku Tharavai
9. Sakkaraikottai Kanmai

Birds Seen From 1st January 1972
in and around 15 K. M. of Ramnad.

1. Flimingo (about 400 Kavnoor Kanmmai) on 1st Jan 1971 and 7 Jan 71. hunter told we can see them even few K. M. North.

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2. Crow
3. Jungle Crow
4. Myna
5. Sparrow
6. King Crow
7. Paraih Kite
8. Brahmany Kite
9. White headed Babbler
10 Cattle Egret

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11. Small Egrett
12. Great Egrett
13 Paddy Bird
14. White Breasted King Fisher
15. Koel
16. Crested Cukoo
17. Indian Robin
18. Painted Strok
19. Night heron

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20 Padridge Grey
21. Indian Stilt
22 Green shank
23. Common Plover
24. Golden Plover
25. Pintail Snipe
26. Grey Heron
27 Swallow
28 Golden Oriole
29. Pied Harrier
30 Pale Harrier
31 Merlin
32 Baya Weaver
33 [illegible]
34 Peacock
35 L Ringed Plover

36. Roller
37. Palm Swift
38 Rock Pigon
39. " Dove
40 Ashy Swollow Shrik
41 Purple Sun bird

42 Pure Rumped S Bird
43 Green Paraquet
44 Brahminy Myna
45 Jungle Babler
46. Tree Pipit
47. Nightingale

48 Bay Backed Shrike
49 Blue Tailed Bee Eater
50 Comman Bee Eater.
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52
53
54
55
56

13.1.1972 Kavanoor

To day morning I went by cycle upto 5 K.M. The water in the Big Kanmai is decreasing Shallow waters standing in the Punchai fields is still there.

As usual I met the Grey Patridges on the road. The shrike was also there. ~~The nest of the Brahminy kite was almost completed.~~ A Tern (Probably ~~A Caspian~~ Whiskered Tern) ~~catched~~ carring its prey fall on the prey immeatly it fell down from its beak before it ~~touch~~ drops a few inches. This happened thrice. Open billed Strokes are numerous. Only few Grey Herons are seen. Black Stints were also seen. The ~~Red Merlin~~ Kestrel was on its favorite telegraph post. Bush Larks were in gay moods and they are uttering there song fly high ups for a few metres. An Yellow ~~throated~~ throated Sparrow ~~sang~~ utters its creaching song without minding my watching. White throated Munias and Spotted Munia were also there. Few Brahminy Mynas ~~with~~ in the

Company of Common Mynas were seen. Little Ringed Plovers, Common Plovers Black winged Stilt, Green Shank, Bar-tailed Godwit were the few shore birds seen there. Red wattled Lap wing was seen first time in the Ramnad.

A noted feature is the arrival of some thousand small birds in a congragation flying from east to west over Peria Kanmai. They must be Plovers ~~stay~~ coming out of thier night stay. Absense of Sunbirds, and other small birds are also noteworthy.

Atleast for few more weeks these spot should be watched and it is easy here to identyfy the birds than any other place.

13.1.1977 Thirupullani

In an efferort to note large number of birds in a days birdwatch I went by bicyle about 10 K.m from Ramnad. But I am happy to note that Flamingo were all around Ramnad during winter Near Sakkarai Kottai Kanmai and also near Thiruppulani I saw gatherings of Flamingos. But I am unable to near them. Spotted Billed Pelicans were also seen about a dozen on my way to Thiruppulani. Herons, Open billed Strokes, an immature Brahminy Kite head Brown Red instead of white most probably the male bird also accompanying the young. I was able to watch the Richard's Pipit at close quarters. B-Bellied Finch Lark and Bush Lark were also there Little ringed Plovers, Sand Plovers Green shanks Marsh Sandpipers

were also seen. A Bay backed Shrike was seen. Blue Tail Bee-Eater and Green Bee Eaters were very numerous in number. Terns were also seen. A pair of ~~white~~ Scavenger vultures were seen.

A large gathering of ~~Herons~~ or Open billed storkes about 200 to 500 in number were seen near the flimingos.

I am unable to note any small birds that is Sunbirds and the like there also. They might have gone on local migration.

16.1.1972 Kavaroor

By 3.30 I started by cycle and reached Kulathoor 10 K.M North of Ramnad. But the Tank at Kulathoor does'nt have any bird life. At Kavanoor Kanmai I was surprised by the large number of Cotton Teals and ~~spotted~~ Grey Duck. They may number around 10,000 thousand. Filmingo numbering about 300 were also there. A small flock of Cormorants and other plovers were also there. On the way I met a pipit with lower mandible Red in colour and deep markings which must be Richard's Pipit. Brown Shrike were also seen. The Birds are not yet started to built nest at Kavnoor Tank. ~~two~~ Some varieties of Sand pipers were also seen but they are not as neumerous as seen on 13.1.1971 morning.

21.1.72 Madrai Road

In the morning I went by walk for about 3 K.M. in the Madurai Road. A Pair of Pipits was on the road side and they are very much at home even though I approached them. Warbles were flying here and there in the paddy fields. They were uttering there usual song. Three variety of warblers were seen.

21.1.72 Evening In the evening I went with V.R to Thekka Tharavai by cycle on the way the cycle punchtured. We were not able to see any thing expect ~~few~~ L. Ringed Plovers and few water birds. The villagers told me that Flamingos and Pelicans ~~were~~ visiting there in the Rainy mornings.. Whiskered Terns, Whistling Teals, Pintail Garganey were seen in flight. A new bird brown in colour about the size of Bulbul + were seen. Herons and Paddy Birds Egrets Painted Stork were also seen. Drongos ~~were~~ many in number. in the road side. Blue Tailed Bee Eaters ~~were also seen.~~ there with Green comman Bee eaters.

23. 1. 72   தெற்குத்துறை 5 K.M. South East of Ramnad Railway Station. Rice fields - swamp - Sandy fields with Paddy sown. 6.00 A.M.

25 Pelicans were sitting in the shawllow canal with slow movements

10 to 12 Storks were also there.

200 to 500 Little Ringed Plovers.

One Eastern Grey Heron

One flimingo in flight

20 to 50 Richard Pipit

1 pied Harrier

10-20 Brown headed Gulls.

1 Grey or Brown Shrike

5 to 10 Bush Larks

Snipes, Plovers, yellow throated Sparrows Cuckoo, Koel, Palm swifts, Blue Tailed Bee Eaters, Drongos, Praih Kites, Brahminy Kites, Roller, White Breasted Kingfisher, Paddy Bird, Small Egret, are all seen. Tern..

26.1.79 9.00 to 10-30 A.M. Kavanoor Thalu

I went upto Kavnoor Thatu in the hot sun. I was able to record the Dabchic. The Sandpiper were there. But due to bright sun I am not able to indentify them. Egrets and Herons are not as numerous as they were when the cultivation was started.

28.1.79 6.00 to 8.00 A.M Devipattanam Road

I went in the Devipatnam Road up 7 KM by cycle The Grey Partridges are numerous. Few waders were also seen. In a single tree five birds (~~Grey~~ Hawk Cuckoo, Oriole, Bulbul, Babbler were seen. No sign of new birds.

30.1.79 7.00 to 8-00 A.M Travelers Bunglow

usual birds. Coppersmiths, Babbler, B and P. Kites (Drongos singing beutifully) Black headed Cuckoo Shrikes are seen.

5 to 7.00 P.M Sethukarai. nothing was there great disappointment. Some Paddy birds and fifty Blue tailed Bee Eaters were there. The Boys there told sandpipers and Terns will be seen only in Avani.

3.2.1972 Thekka Tharavai (6.30-7.30)

By cycle I went upto Thekka Tharavai I am able to locate Flimingo's some hundred in numbers. But I am able to reach only 500 Meters from them. A few crested finch Larks, the usual solitary Herons other Plovers were there. The Pelicans were not there. Only one Pink Stroke was there. Three gooses in flight uttering "Thru thru" sound were also seen.

12-2-1972 Kavanoor 6-45 to 8-30

To day I went upto 7 K.m in the Kavnoor Road. There is no sign of Painted Stroks and Pelicans Breeding in the Kavnoor Kanmai. Tharas and Siragi are numerous. Not even a single Painted Stroke which breeded here last was seen. Water level is very low in the Peria Kanmai and Kavnoor Kanmai.

Brahminy kite laid two eggs and is sitting in the nest which it builds two months earlier. Warbler in the Paddyfield are numerous. A Pale Harried is seen flying very low.

13.2.72 7.00 A.M. 8.00 A.M. Peria Kanmai

I went upto peria kanmai by walk. Larg flocks of Teals and Pintails were there. Greenshanks, Indian Blackwinged Stilts, Little Ringed Plovers, Grebe were also present in small numbers. yet I am unable to idendify the water birds.

In the evening myself and Raju went for a walk in the Kavanoor Road. By 6.40 a large flock of Teal numbering about two thousand flew from Peria Kanmai towards east making enormous noise which we mistake for a lorry approaching from behind. Two or three such flock flew towards east.

Indian Pipit and Richards Pipit were present. Striated warblers are numerous in the paddy fields

In the evening a peculiar Eagle was seen circling over paddy fields with long tail and slim wings. underparts uniformly earth brown size = Pariah kite -

17.2.72 7.00 A.M 8.00 A.M Peria Kanmai.

To-day I went by bus and got down near 5 K.M. Mark and walk back on the bund of the Kanmai. I spotted ~~two~~ huge flocks of white birds in the southern and western tips very far away. They might be the flimangos. Stilts were numerous in number. Sandpiper and Snipes were also seen. Jack Snipe or Pintail Snipe ?. Green Shanks and Marsh Sandpipers were seen. For the first time I recorded a Indian Purple Moor hen. A pair of Painted Stroks with red patch near the gaps were seen. I noticed a spotted Munia Building its nest in Palmaira Tree. A Sandpiper most probably Common Sandpiper uttering itee itee itee notes 10 notes in 5 seconds. Night heron was also seen. In an harvested paddy field a half a dozen wagtails were seen. Throat neck breast and sides of abdomen yellow; above ashy grey tinged with yellow. size pied wagtail.

19.2.72: Peria Kanmai

To-day for the First time I noticed two Painted Snipes under a kattukaruvai bush. Black winged Stilts are numerous. Two varietys of Shrikes (one Brown Shrike Southern Rufous-Rumped Shrike). Jack Snipe which I saw yesterday was ~~still~~ there to-day also. The ~~pink headed~~ painted Strikes ~~were~~ are about six or seven. Pintails, Green Shanks Green Sandpipers Common Sandpiper Marsh Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper Black Tailed Godwit. Little Ringed Plovers were there.

The water level is decreasing daily and in fifteen days time I hope I can see numerous birds in the shallow waters which will attract many other species.

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20.2.72: Devipattan.

By 5.30 bus I reache Devipattanam by 5.50. In the bathing got there was no sign of bird life. When I walked One or two K.M. north near Muthuragunathapuram. There in the swamps I ~~saw~~ ~~may~~ many varieties of winter visitors.

Indian Reef Heron about 25 in number was there. Curlews, Sandpipers Shanks were also there. Little ringed Plover were numerous. When walked further north I came across a dozen Curlews and a single Great Black headed Gull. and May be Pin tails some two hundered ducks allover Black in colour. A flock of Teals came over and floated in the sea.

Fly catchers and warbler are also in the dry zone near by.

A Kesteral (Probaly Indian) was also be there.

Paddy birds and Egretts were numberous.

24.2.72 Periakanmai.

பெரியகண்மாயில் [illegible] குறைந்து வரு[illegible]. [illegible] flamingo. காணப்பட்டன.

Today I came across a gun who short two Teal and brought them to shore. Even with the birds in hand I am unable to idendify them ~~clearly~~ definetly. They may be Teals - Common Teals without any bright colours except dark brown and dull white markings and they were very small in size and no speculum was present. I catch a paddy bird in the Kattu karuvai bush which probably was wounded in the joints.

Sandpipers and Plovers were less in number. The pair of Snipes were there.

In the harvested rice field anyhow there is some four varietys of Sand pipers and Plovers including a waytail.

Little Grebes near the church are building their nest in the morning and they are very active.

1-3-1972 Peria kanmai

To day morning I went upto Peria-kanmai and even before I reach the tank bund continous roaring noise surprised me. When I got up the tank bund I saw about hundred Flimingos in the knee deep water feeding some 25 Metres from the bund and I had my first look of Flimingos in my life. They are making a lot of noise and their feathers on the back are rising up often due to wind or their action towards their mates I don't know. Some birds try to catch hold of the beaks of their mates. and their habit of feeding is wonderful. Some 120 Plecans were also there. They are standing in closely knitted ~~packet~~ and when they suspected me they strat flying ~~very low~~ only few feet above water one after other in a diagonal. The flimingo also flew for some distance. Stints are there in large numbers and they are flying here and there. I had an excellent view of a Night heron in full breeding plumage.

10.3.71 Perria kannmai + Kavnoor. 6.30 to 9.10 AM

To day I went in the usual route with Prof Abraham and Krishnamoorthy. A gunner distrubed the birds. In the Perria Kannmai Flamingo's were in huge congregations and only to-day for the season I saw a large number of Pelicans about 800 in number. The Flamingo's were also some were near thosand in number.

Yesterday I went upto Kavnoor kannrai The water there were almost tried up and Egrets, ~~and~~ Eastern herons, Paddy Birds. Bitterns and other birds were there in large numbers in the shallow waters. The reason for the birds not breeding in Kannrai may be due to the fact that they will have some knowledge about the future conditions of the water level in the Kanmai.

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10.3.71 4 to 7 P.M Devipatnam Swamp.

By 3.30 P.M we started by bus to Devipatnam. First it looks that our trip will end without much success. Via, Ragunathapuram we entered the swamp portion. The sea was fortunatly at low tides and the water edge is about 200 meteres further away when compared with position to my last visit.

Some two hundred few Sea Gulls (Brown headed, Black headed and Big Black headed Gulls were seen. Eastern Reef heron one in Black plumage few in white phases. Egrets were also seen. Some 20 curlews and Avocets were also there. but I am not in a possision to idendify other small sandpipers and Plovers. Black tailed and Bar tailed Godwits we were able to identify. Stilts Stone Plovers and curlew sandpipers were also there. I should pay a visit to that place. I should carry a note book with me. Green Shank Green sandpipers were also seen. One should be patience to note each and every species.

11.3.1971 8.30 to 9.45 Kanchirankalam

4 K.M West of Mudukulathur.

~~4~~.30 Bus to Paramakudi then 5.30 Bus to Mudukulathur. 6.20 Bus to Mudukulathur. arrived there by 7.25. walked from bus stand to Kanchirank kulam. 9.45 Bus to uttarakosamangai.

25 trees all karuvelams in the tank provides nesting and roosting places for the birds. (Mostly ~~Painted~~ Stroks. and Pelicans.) Painted Stroks about 2000, about 300 breeding - chiks are there. bill ~~whi~~ black almost white some birds ~~sitting~~ in the nest. some birds building there nest. Pelicans also had chicks of one month old about 1000 in number, 200 breeding. Some yet bringing in Stics - Stratied breeding in November - still going - water condition alarming. But the birds will be there upto May when all the chicks will grow up. People giving protection for the past twenty five years. The trees in very bad condition. Many people visiting - you may handle the chicks. Black ~~necke~~ Ibis, one Spoonbill Cattle Egrett also breed. were also seen.

13.3.1972 6.00 – 7-45 A.M Periakammai.

Near the vaikkal to day I saw three Spoonbills which is a record for Ramnad. The Pionts of the wings were greyish Black. One Blacknecke Ibis and one painted stork and one Grey Heron and one open Billed Strok were also there. The Eastern Large Egretts were seen the bill yellow. legs and feet toes all Black. But not in breeding plumage. Some 5000 Teals flew over when one gunner sent out a shot. Flimingos and Pelicans were in large numbers as usuals. Some Flimingos very far off are in red colour they may be Lesser Flimingo. Green Shanks, spotted S.P, C. Sand Piper, Snipe. Stint L. Ringed Plover were there. One Harrier at a distance. Near 2. K.M in the Paddyfield two Cattle Egretts in breeding Plumage were seen, others in ordinary condition were with them.

16.3.72 7.00 - 9.00 A.M. Devipatnam Road.

I went upto 9 K.M. Meters in the Devipatnam Road. and went 1 K.m towards Attankarai. There in a Kanmai some hundred Painted Storks 10 or 15 Eastern Herons 2 & 5 Spoon bill 3-5 White ibis and a single Eastern Reef heron were feeding in the shallow waters which will dry up in a week or so. Egrets, Paddy Birds, some variets of Sandpipers were also there. While returning I saw four harriers Montagu or Pale flying over paddy fields Swallows were ~~in~~ hundreds were sitting on Kattu Karuvai and they glittering new plumage. I saw four mynah's fighting for nearly five minutes and crow interfering in their fight. Blak winged kite and Brahminy kite also fight with each other. Grey Patridges were making lot of noise and they were numerous in number

16.3.72 4.00 to 5.30 P.M Madurai Road Periakamai

By Bicycle I went up to 5 K.M in the Madurai Road. Swallows were numerous and they are in moult and in gatherings of 100 to 200. I saw some 20 such groups. ~~4 such~~ Some Swallows have wires in tails which ~~are~~ are one to two and half inches in length.

The ~~Black~~ Winged Stilts are numerous (some 500) near Southern Kalingu of Periakamai I thought the left the place. In the middle of the water Pelicans, Flimingos and Teals were seen in large numbers.

A Caspian Tern in summer plumage and Whiskered Terns were seen Caspian Tern makes kkrowg sound while flying. ~~Many~~ Brown headed Gull were seen flying and floating. Some attained summer plumage. One or two birds are still with head white. Sandpipers and ~~Plovers~~ were also there. Again I saw a Harrier most probably Montequ's. Streaked Reed warbler and fly catcher were there.

17.3.72 4.30 to 6.30 P.M Periakanmai - West dry Lands.

To day I went by cycle up 5 k.m and went 1 k.m west towards try lands which were under green grams cultivation. I saw a Kesteral stand still in air 1 minute + and a Harrier. 10 wagtails most probably ~~white~~ grey with white edged tails and yellow unperparts. I was able to see a Greenshank in very close quarters which had small white spots all over the body Two Painted patridges were also seen. Small Pipits and Larks are numerous. The Ashy Wren Warbler and Fantailed Streaked warblers were also seen in large numbers.

In the Periakanmai flamingos were not so numerous as found a week back

20.3.72 5-30 to 6-30 Sakarakkottai Kanmai
Western shore

By walk I went upto 1k.m south of Railway Line. Few Brown headed Gulls, Little Ringed Plovers, K. Plovers Three Greenshanks were seen near the water edge. But in the centre of the Lake huge flocks of Black headed Ibis about 500 in number were seen. By 6.15 they flew above the water in parties of 50 to 70 and went in various directions. White Necked Storks about 100 in number were also seen. They stood in lines facing South-that is wind. Few water birds Teals and cormorants were also seen in distances. Flamingos were also there. The white necked Storks which were not met before and the white necked Ibis and spoonbills were puzzling. I must investigate.

21.3.72 Peria Kanmai 7.00 to 8.00 A.M.

Water decreasing day by day.

200 to 300 flemingos, some 200 feets from ~~tank~~ bund

300 to 500 Pelican far off.

Solitary Grey Herons and Egrets and small Plovers are seen. Black winged stilts were there. But the Plovers and sandpipers were less in number.

On the way back I saw half a dozen Wag Tails - throat and abdomen yellow - breast with Grey Band separating yellow of throat and abdomen. ~~Legs~~. Tail long with white outer feathers. ~~Back Striped~~.

2~~1~~3.3.72 Sakkarakottai Kanmai 6.00 P.M to 7.00

To day I went by cycle upto 4 km in the Sethukarai Road. Only few birds were seen in the Sakkarai kottai kanmai Local bird catchers using nets went for deep into the kanmai and probably the bird are afraid of them. Brown headed Gulls were seen here and there.

23. 3. 72 Sakaraikkottai Kanmai 5.45-7.15 A.M.

To day I started out by 5.30 and reached the bus stand to go to Sethukarai. But after learning that the bus will start only by 6.30 I walked upto 3 k.m and as the bus never turns up I cancelled the trip.

Only few birds Pintails (10), Herons (3), Gulls (15) were there. But in two kanvai's there were young chicks of Brahminy Kites. One nest contains three chick which resembles Pariah kite in colour and in the other one only two chicks were there. They had much white spots on the body. Two barred owlets were preparing nest in a old Karuvel tree. I saw a bird with a thin stick in its mouth.

Scimbirds, Drongos, Mynas were numerous

The absense of Bluetailed bee eaters which were numerous in January is noticeable. Cattle, Small and other egrets were numerous.

24.3.72 Periakanmai. 6.30 to 8.00 A.M.

By cycle went upto 5 K.M and returned via the Eastern bund of the kanmai. Green Shanks, Little Ringed Plovers, Spotted Sandpipers, Common Sandpipers were common.

Six Black Necked Ibis were seen in flight.

222 [illegible]

50 Coromants 1000 Flemmingos in three parties, 1500 Pelicans (in three parties were seen

[illegible] *222* [illegible]

10000 Teals streached as a great wall in a row of fives were seen.

~~[illegible]~~ To days numbers were greaters for my life. I had never seen such huge collections any were before. Kavanoor sight may equal this.

Harriers were also seen. They are numerores during march.

25.3.72 Sakkaraikottai Kanmai 6.00 to 7.30 A.M

Sunny day. Lot of mist in the Morning. I went about to k.m after crossing Railway Line in the western shallow side of the Kanmai. To my surprise I was able to find 60 to 100 WHITE STROKS standing as separated parties. Some 300 to 400 Black necked White Ibis were also there. I saw 4 spoon bills in flights. Pelicans Flimingos were also there. Lots of Stints Plovers are there in the grass swamps. This is the ideal time for bird watching in Ramnad. Some Ducks Pintail and Teal were also seen. People still engage in catching Birds.

25.3.72 Sethukarai 5.30 to 6.30

Foolishly I cycled upto Sethukarai. In the backwaters a curlew and eight Turn Stones were there. I should visit in the mornings.

26.3.72 Periakanmai 4.30 to 6.00

Near the mill Pelicans were sitting in the kanmai on a thittu (திட்டு) in large numbers. Felimingo were further north. The caspian tern was not there. White Whiskered tern and Gull were see.

The swallows are still ~~here~~ around here. Some have wire in tails about 6 c.m. in length.

A Black winged Kite and two Pale Harriers and two female Harriers one underpart almost white with less rufous sparklings another much darker but rump predominently white anyhow Harriers are numerous during ~~M~~ march around Ramnad.

Only two Painted Storks were seen. White storks were not there.

3~~0~~1.3.72 Peria Kanmai 6.30 To 7-30

With Prof Abraham and Krishnamoorthi I went to Periakanmai by walk via the village and returned by Madurai Road. Some 200 fellmingos were there. Since the Vaikai Dam was opened on 23.3.72 ~~there~~ there is an inflow of water into the kanmai and the villagers say that water will last for April and first two weeks of May. Besides Felemingos one or two Gulls and Whiskerd Terns Cormorants were there. Common Sandpiper and Marsh sandpiper were also seen there. A Pair of Green sandpipers were seen.

I saw a White breasted Kingfish feeding its small ones in the tree. The Brahminy kite chicks were not come out. Drongo probably abandoned its nest after some time.

Some 15 Cotton Teals were seen in the kanmai. The were flying uniformly and in glittering white plumage. Some ~~Heron~~. were there. The Golden Oriole is still around in abundance

31.3.72 Devipattanam 5.00 to 7.00 P.M.

In the evening we went to Devi pattnam and we were disappointed since the ~~sea~~ was in High tide. Only Marsh and common sandpipers in the salt-pans were seen. Gulls and some birds were flying.

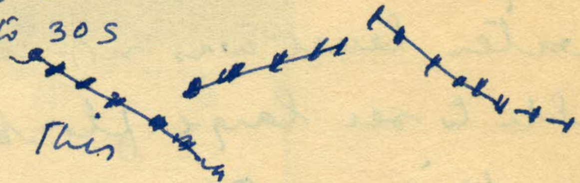
1.4.72 Sakarrai kottai Kanmai 6.00-7.00

Today we went by walk on the Kilakkarai Road. Herons, Stints, and Black necked Ibis were in large numbers. Ibis were some 500 in numbers. Stints also collected in large Group consisting of some 50 in a Group. The chicks of the Brahminy Kite came out of the nest and were sitting in the tree.

4.4.72 Sakarraikottai Kanmai. 6.00-8.00

Black Necked Ibis some 5000 in numbers were seen all over the Kanmai. Others birds are not seen. Stints and ~~Marsh~~ Sandpipers were seen Gull also were there.

5.4.72 To day I went by Thanthi Taxi to Madurai. Near Paramakudi some 300 cormorants flew of from a tank and they we flying in 20s to 30s



diagonals like this

In the Madurai University area I saw a Red headed Merlin and some other birds.

7.4.72 Peria kannai. 4.00 P.M.

The water level in the Periakannai raised considerably and there were no birds. Even the usual Gulls and Terns were also not there. The Flemingos were standing very far off. The Swallow were still around and they are in huge collection flying vigorously around. The Brahminy kites were in large numbers.

Near the church In a Tamarind tree two Indian Reef Heron were building Nests with Little Egrets.

9.4.1972 Devaipattanam 4.30 to 6.00.

With the principal I went to the Devipattanam swamp. Fortunately the water level was not high and I am able to see large flocks of Stints and Sandpipers. Few Egrets (Large?) and other waders were there. ~~But~~ 10 snow white birds with prominent black bills most probably Crab Plovers were sitting on a thitter. Stints ~~were~~ very numerous. Wood or Marsh Sandpipers were the only species out-side the shore.

10.4.1972 Sakkaraikottaikanmai 6.30 to 7.30 A.M

The water level were very low and the water is not flowing in the Malhatees. They are going to let in water to-day.

Pelicans, Open bills, Egrets, Gulls, Spoon bills, Teals, Stints are in large numbers. The total being some 10000 (ten thousand).

I saw two chicks in the Drangoe nest.

11.4.72 Sakkaraikottai Kanmai 6.00 to 6.30 A.M

The water is not yet released for this kanmai. Some 200 Felimingo's all in a line came from South-East and they are probably in two minds ~~wther~~ wether to alight* down or not. Finally they flew over my head without coming down ~~mak~~ their beating of the wings making much noise towards Periakanmai. Gulls flew to this kanmai daily from Periakanmai. Batches 50 to 60 came every morning and returning in the evening. Heron and White Ibis were also visiting.

12.4.72 Sakaraikottai Kanmai 5.45 to 6.15 P.M

Except Gulls other birds are very few in numbers. 15 Felimingo came from North East. The velocity of the wind is very high - about 40 K.m/hr. It took nearly 15 minutes for the birds to cross over the kanmai 2 K.M.

A Common Sandpiper and two Wood sandpipers were also seen.

Stints are completely absent

16.4.72 Sakkaraikottaikanmai 6.20 to 7.20

Water was not released as expected to this kanmai and the water is drying up fastly. Except Gulls, Egrets and few open bills no other birds were seen in far off mudflat with little water.

One Wood Sandpiper and one Green Sandpiper were the only migrants seen still staying here

The two chicks in the Drongo's nest were flickering their wings. When I approached the nest one Drongo flew like a Skylark very high (at least fifty metres) straight. It may be an attraction to draw my attention.

The Indian Reef Heron which build their nests a few days back were not seen after that. Perhaps they might have abandoned the nest.

Yesterday some 15 Painted Storks flew circling over my house

18.4.72 Sakkaraikottai Kanmai. 6.00-6.30

The water is drying up fastly and the number of birds are increasing. To unexpectedly I saw some 5000 Brown headed and Black headed Gulls ~~gathering~~ took off from there and circling round ~~go~~ flying hither and thither and atlast they flew towards Peria kanmai. 50 Spoons bills also fly towards the same direction. 12 Painted Strokes, 2 Plicans, 2 Herons fly towards the kanmai.

19.4.72 Peria Kanmai - 6.30-7.30 A.m

Feleimingos - 300-500
Pintails(?) - 20-50
Whiskered Tern 1
Herons - 30-50
Painted Storke 15-20
Cummon Sandpiper 2
Green Sandpiper - 1

and Paraih Kite & Brahminy kites.

19.4.72 Peria Kanmai 5-30 to 6.30 p.m.

To-day I followed the Gulls numbering about 2000 from Sakkarakottai Kanmai by cycle and I found out that they roost in the Peria Kanmai in the nights in a "thitu". Two kinds of tern and a pair of Fishing Eagles and were also there. Some 200 herons (much dark above) and 100 Spoonbills and few Black necked Ibis were also seen. Flimingo were about 600 in number. Painted Strokes, ~~and~~ Plicans, ~~and~~ Cormorants and few Pintails were also seen. While returning I saw a Shikra carrying a lizard and when compared to its size the bird I saw yesterday might be a ~~Goshawk~~ or Falcon? I saw One Blacknecked Ibis roosted in a tree near church ~~inside~~

23.4.72: Sakkaraikottai Kanmai water dried up only Gulls and Egretts.